

## WORKING WITH INTERPRETERS

The following statements relate to the role, skills and abilities of interpreters who work between individuals who do not share the same language and culture. They are designed to foster thought about the skills professional interpreters should possess as compared to communicators and the assumptions we make about working with interpreters. When choosing a suitable option for each statement, imagine you are a participant in a situation requiring an interpreter's services.

1. Communication is facilitated when friends and relatives serve as interpreters because of their close relationship with any one of the clients.

5	4	3	2	1
strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree

2. Knowledge of technical vocabulary in both working languages and advance preparation are vital for interpreters.

5	4	3	2	1
strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree

3. Interpreters should give a word-for-word rendition to ensure accuracy & completeness.

5	4	3	2	1
strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree

4. Interpreters should not interject their opinions in the exchange between the clients.

5	4	3	2	1
strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree

5. Most individuals who speak two languages have the skills to become good interpreters.

5	4	3	2	1
strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree

6. Hiring an interpreter is necessary and often required by law when individuals who use different languages try to communicate and/or do business.

5	4	3	2	1
strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree

7. Be careful what you say, interpreters are obligated to interpret everything that is spoken or signed.

5	4	3	2	1
strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree

These statements have been modified from the assessment exercise found in the module "Training Bilinguals to Interpret in the Community" by Carolina Freimanis in Improving Intercultural Interactions: Modules for Cross-Cultural Training Programs, Richard Brislin and Tomoko Yoshida, editors, 1994.

